



SPRING 2019

# Town of Historic Sykesville

## NEWSLETTER

[www.townofsykesville.org](http://www.townofsykesville.org)  
[town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net)

### TOWN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Aretha L. Adams, MPA

Town Manager  
410-795-6390

Evelyn M. Sweet

Town Treasurer  
410-795-8959

Kerry Chaney

Town Clerk  
410-795-8959

Mark Onheiser

Project Coordinator  
410-795-8959

Jana Antrobus

Executive Assistant  
410-795-6390

Michael Spaulding

Chief of Police  
410-795-0757

Barbara Prawdzik

Admin. Assistant/Police  
410-795-0757

Derek Shreves

Public Works Director  
410-795-3186

The Town House  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mayor and Town Council

Second & fourth Mondays  
of the month

Planning Commission

First Monday of the month

Historic Commission

Fourth Tuesday of the month

Board of Zoning appeals

Monthly as necessary

Parks &

Recreation Committee

Fourth Thursday of the month

### IAN SHAW, MAYOR

How far have we come, and what is governments' ongoing role?

We have achieved so much and have come so far here in Sykesville over the past several years! This is largely due to so many people and groups coming together and helping to make our efforts a success. With the sale of Warfield and future development moving forward, a revived Main Street, a revitalizing park process, infrastructure improvements and so much more. While so much has happened, the time is upon us to review and rebalance all of our efforts and projects with our resources and our future success in mind. That is what I hope to achieve as we move forward this year.



I believe governments' ongoing role, as a rule, should be to do the things that are too big for citizens to do on their own: infrastructure, parks, education, maintenance of public spaces, and public safety for instance, as well as support for organizations that do well what government cannot. Governments are not well suited to do things citizens can and should be doing or that small businesses can or should be doing. As your Mayor, I need to be mindful of the trust put in me to prudently manage your resources. I take that responsibility very serious and always want to protect that trust. Government can do everything for you, but often at a greater cost and inefficiency. This is not to disparage government workers in any way whatsoever; they are great and committed hard workers. It simply is that government systems are not designed to replace the roles of private citizens.

It has been one of my goals to review all of our needs in each budget session and make recommendations with staff, services and capital needs in mind that reflect this mission. With rising property tax assessments to the tune of close to 20% in some cases, this will have a major impact on many of our citizens. In 2012, I introduced our Capital and Stabilization Reserve Fund of \$250,000.00 and supported a .35/\$100 rate tax increase for the Town from a .33/\$100 rate. Those were much needed positions and they have put us on solid financial footing with ample reserve positions. I do plan to increase the reserves to secure our future and so our capital needs can be addressed, and, as I said then, once we were where we are now, in a strong financial condition, we could consider reducing the tax rate back to where it was. Additionally, we have secured an 85% restoration plan of Highway User Revenues; these cuts were a large reason why we needed additional funds. As a result I, am proposing in this budget a return to our former tax rate as promised, as we are in very solid financial positions on all fronts and should be going forward for the foreseeable future. While not huge tax relief, each step to properly analyze Government's roles and resources helps keep us all focused on the actual needs and builds trust for when these hard decisions are needed in the future. When elected officials act as promised, however gradually, this will continue to build on the trust you the citizens have placed in us as your elected representatives.

I hope to see you all soon and hope as you read this spring is upon us and winter is but a memory! Don't forget to vote this Election Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Your voice matters!

Sincerely, Ian Shaw, Mayor

**Election Day is May 7.**  
**Please see page 7 for more information!**

See upcoming EVENTS inside & on the back cover.

# Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste!

## TRASH AND RECYCLING CHANGES

- ◆ The following holidays will affect the trash and recycling changes.
- ◆ **July 4, 2019:** All days will be shifted forward. Trash usually picked up on Tuesday, July 2, will be picked up on Monday, July 1, Trash picked up on Wednesday, July 3, will be picked up on Tuesday, July 2, and Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, July 3.
- ◆ **Thanksgiving, November 28, 2019:** Recycling normally picked up on November 28 will be picked up on Monday, December 2.
- ◆ The weeks of December 23 and December 30 will follow the schedule below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Trash usually picked up on Tuesday will be picked up on Monday	Town Offices Closed	Town Offices Closed	Trash usually picked up on Wednesday will be picked up on Thursday	Recycling usually picked up on Thursday will be picked up on Friday



## A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR DEREK SHREVES

According to Wikipedia: Grasscycling refers to an aerobic (requires air) method of handling grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn when mowing.

Grasscycling is an easy way to maintain your yard while saving time! Just don't bag your grass when cutting it! That's it! When you leave your grass clippings on a mowed lawn, the clippings quickly decompose and make your lawn greener, healthier, and sturdier.

Grasscycling not only saves you time but can save you money by reducing the amount of fertilizer you need. Leaving the clippings naturally fertilizes your lawn! Grasscycling can provide 20% or more of a lawn's yearly nitrogen requirements.

These helpful guidelines will maximize the benefits:

- Set mower blade height to 3"-4"
- Cut no more than 1/3 the length of the grass
- Cut lawn when grass is dry to the touch
- Let grass clippings fall and stay on the lawn

Mow at least once a week during peak growing season

Reminder:

Town ordinance §60.3 requires grass and weeds be cut under 12".

Trees and landscaping cannot extend into sidewalks path or block street signs.

Grass clippings blown into the street clog storm drains and are harmful to town Stormwater ponds.

Dumping of yard waste in the parks and other wooded areas in the Town or along the Linear Trail is prohibited.

### YARD WASTE Pickup will begin April 16 and will go through December 5.

The Town will pick up yard waste on your regular trash day, after trash pickup. Please have your yard waste in the brown craft paper yard bags or bundle sticks together no more than 4 feet long. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

### Free Bulk Pickup Day! April 27, 2019!

No hazardous waste, liquids, or yard waste.  
**Appliances will be picked up April 29**



---

## Sykesville Police Department

---

As the warm weather approaches, the Sykesville Police Department would like to remind our residents of several parking regulations which are contained in our town code. Parking is an important issue here in our town, and it is necessary for our Police Officers to closely monitor and enforce our town's parking regulations. We appreciate your understanding and attention to these regulations!

### **Prohibited parking areas**

At any time it shall be unlawful to permit any trailer or vehicle, other than authorized emergency vehicles, to stand in any of the following places, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device:

- In any intersection.
- In a crosswalk.
- At any place where the vehicle would block another vehicle or the use of a driveway.
- On any sidewalk.
- In parking spaces designated for the exclusive use by mobility-handicapped persons, except by those persons with a mobility handicap and duly authorized to park in such parking spaces.
- In any area which the Town Council has designated as a fire lane and which has been so marked by an official sign or yellow curb.
- Within 15 feet from any fire hydrant.
- At any area which the Town Council has designated as a "No Parking" area and which has been so marked by an official sign.

### **Parking at curbs**

No trailer or vehicle shall be parked with the left side of such vehicle next to the curb, except on one-way streets, and it shall be unlawful to stand or park any trailer or vehicle in a street other than substantially parallel with the curb and with the right wheels of the trailer or vehicle within 12 inches of the regularly established curblines, except that upon those streets that have been marked for angle parking, trailers or vehicles shall be parked at the angle to the curb indicated by such marks.

### **Time limit parking**

Except on Sundays or holidays, it shall be unlawful to park any trailer or vehicle for a longer consecutive period of time than that designated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays in any area which the Town Council has designated as a limited parking area and which is marked by an official sign stating the day(s) and/or time(s) of such parking limits.

### **Trailer parking prohibited**

It shall be unlawful to park any trailer in any public street or public road in any residential zone for more than 48 continuous hours.

### **Parking within line designations**

Wherever lines or markings have been designated by the Town Council on any street or parking lot of said Town, it shall be unlawful to park any trailer or vehicle across any such line or marking or to park a trailer or vehicle in such position that the same shall not be entirely within the area so designated by such lines or markings.

### **Parking Decals**

The Town is working to implement parking decals for church parking only. These spaces will be reserved in the parking lot by the Police Department and Town House. They will be used on Sundays during the Farmers' Market season.

---

## Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office

---

We are ready for the warm weather here at Old Main Line Visitors Center and Post Office! Hard to believe, but people are still finding Sykesville's hidden gem of a Post Office in the Town of Sykesville.

We have lots of new stamps in stock for spring including: Year of the Boar, World War I, First Responders, Purple Hearts, and the new Love Stamp.

Recently, the United States Postal Service increased prices. The forever stamp is now 55 cents, Priority flat rate letters are \$7.35, and padded flat rate envelopes are \$8.00. If you know you need stamps in advance, feel free to call us, and we can special order for your needs!

As a reminder, we have the Tower Room for rent above the Post Office. It is a great place to have a meeting, small party, or gathering. Stop in for details.

Our hours are:

**Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

(closed for mail pick-up 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm)

**Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Phone: 410-552-9975

Email: [postoffice@sykesville.net](mailto:postoffice@sykesville.net)

Your friendly staff:  
Jenn, Lori, Cecelia and Joyce



---

## Gate House Museum

---



Not everyone likes history. Not everyone likes stories about fires and floods and people from long ago. Not everyone likes cool, old things with the fingerprints of the past all over them, things that were used and worn, purchased, cherished, and relied on, by people who lived 100 years ago.

But if you do, or if you'd like just a little taste of the history of your town, or a sense of what it might have been like to live here 100 years ago, just stop by the Gate House any Friday or Sunday afternoon between 1:00 pm and 5:00 p.m. and take a 15-minute browse through Sykesville's past. Or a half hour, or however long you like. It's always free to visit!

We've got stories all over the walls. The town's history, the tragic rise and fall of Wade Warfield, the way people lived and worked, the story of the First World War and the great flu of 1918.

We've got a working phone from the days before phones had numbers, an ancient pump organ you can sit down and play, great art works by Helen Gaither and the Jones sisters of Sykesville! We've got old tools for building and maintaining the railroad, ancient scythes and sickles and other primitive farming implements. We've got curling irons, wash tubs, lanterns, clothes irons, toasters, nifty shoes, razors and collars, driving goggles and all kinds of other small items from 1907, 1912, 1918, including a helmet, canteen, gas mask, and horse brush from the First Great War. And a purple heart issued to a Sykesville town Council Member who was terribly wounded in the First World War.

All beautifully arranged in two pretty rooms in a house built over 110 years ago. Bring your imagination. If you think about it all, it's pretty amazing stuff.

7283 Cooper Drive  
Sykesville, MD 21784

410-549-5150

<http://www.townofsykesville.org/2157/Gate-House-Museum-of-History>

---

## The Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse

---

Our own little Historic Colored Schoolhouse is about to appear on the national stage! The annual conference of the Country School Association of America will be held in the Mid Atlantic this year, right next door in Frederick, June 16 - 19. Two years ago our Schoolhouse was selected for the association's annual award of \$1000.00. We were unable to travel to Atlanta to be honored, so the group will acknowledge Sykesville at the formal meeting of all delegates on June 18. Learning of our Homework Club, coordinator Pat Greenwald was asked to give a 25-minute presentation to the full conference assemblage. The following morning, delegates will take a tour of eight schoolhouses in surrounding counties, culminating with a visit right here in Sykesville! Our Schoolhouse is unique because it is in near constant use, offering not only the usual field trips, meeting site, and open houses, but also a Homework Club which is making a difference for local children and youth. National recognition is an honor!





# Sykesville Main Street

Julie Della-Maria, DSC Executive Director

www.DowntownSykesville.com | www.facebook.com/sykesville/  
DowntownSykesvilleConnection@gmail.com  
7307 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784  
410-259-3515



## HELLO SYKESVILLE!

We wanted to take a minute to introduce our pair of amazing Elizabeths!



One goes by Beth: Beth Horneman Currence is a mother of three, a beautiful soul, and hard working woman who has successfully managed our Farmer's Market through its growth and location changes for the past three years.

Beth is back at it with her usual flair and kindness. You will be able to find her at the **Farmer's Market** welcome tent each **Sunday from May 19 to October 27, 9am to 1pm**. Please stop and say hi, and ask Beth about new upcoming activities, vendors and more. You will not want to miss a Sunday at the Market. As always, it is the number one place to meet up with family, friends and neighbors while shopping for fresh produce and so much more.

If you want to reach Beth to volunteer, get some service hours, or participate in the Market, please email her at: [ekcurrence@gmail.com](mailto:ekcurrence@gmail.com).

You can follow the Market planning and programming on our website: [www.sykesvillemainstreet.com/Farmers-Market/](http://www.sykesvillemainstreet.com/Farmers-Market/) or on its Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sykesvillefarmersmarket/](http://www.facebook.com/sykesvillefarmersmarket/)



Our other Elizabeth is Elizabeth Blocher. Mother of two, avid Main Street fan, energetic and caring Sykesville resident, she is now the DSC Event Coordinator. You will see her on Main Street assisting our Main Street businesses with their events, like **Mimosas on Main Street (April 14th, 1 to 4pm)**, or getting ready for the **Art & Wine Festival on May 5th** and the **Let Freedom Ring Parade on June 30th**.

You can contact Elizabeth at [elizabethblocher@outlook.com](mailto:elizabethblocher@outlook.com) to volunteer; check the event details on our website: [www.DowntownSykesville.com](http://www.DowntownSykesville.com) (under the event tab) or on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sykesville/](http://www.facebook.com/sykesville/)

Stay tuned Sykesville. These two are about to knock your socks off!

*"It takes a place to create a community and a community to create a place" - Fred Kent*



Town of Sykesville is recognized as the lead sponsor in all that we do and will assist our Board of Directors in conducting our group on the path of continued success, innovation, and commitment to serve our community. The DSC administers the Main Street program in Sykesville





## Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) is proud to bring Sykesville another exciting line up of events for our busy spring and summer schedule. Please mark your calendars! To stay up-to-date with any changes, be sure to like us on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee](http://www.facebook.com/Sykesvilleparksandrecreationcommittee).



#### *Easter Egg Hunt*

The SPARC annual Easter Egg Hunt is back this spring at Millard Cooper Park for children 8 years old and younger. There will be a separate area for children 3 years old and younger. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to make an appearance so remember to bring your camera as well as your Easter basket. Eggs go fast, so please arrive early. Date TBD.

### SYKESVILLE CINEMA RETURNS FOR ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!

Come enjoy open-air movies with your neighbors and friends with our powerful audio and video system. We have an exciting line up of movies and thematic events this year. Come hungry and enjoy fresh popcorn and other delights from our Snack Shack.

Movies are on the **2nd Saturday of each month from June-October** at Millard Cooper Park (next to Sykesville Middle). Each show begins approximately 15 minutes after sundown – so come early to get a good seat (don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets). General parking is available at Sykesville Middle. Millard Cooper Park includes easy access handicapped parking and an ADA-accessible viewing pad.



#### *Sykesville Cinema 2019 Summer Series*

June 8	<i>Sing</i>
July 13	<i>Moana</i>
August 10	<i>Wonder Woman</i>
September 14	<i>Reserved Rain Date</i>
October 12	<i>Beetlejuice</i>

-Pre-feature showing of *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*

Sykesville Cinema is free, but we request your donations of non-perishable food items for Carroll County Food Sunday. Collection bins are available onsite.

### JULY CONCERT SERIES

Join us on Friday nights in July for great performances by local artists. Concerts are held in the gazebo at Millard Cooper Park, but please confirm the venue location before each event.

### PARK CLEAN UP AND BBQ

Help keep our parks beautiful. Please join us on April 27 for our annual clean-up day. After the clean-up, join us for a barbeque and fun activities. Stay tuned for more information.

### YOGA IN THE PARK

Back by popular demand after a successful second year, SPARC is sponsoring a Yoga in the Park Series. Yoga will be offered for free on the following dates beginning at 9AM (be sure to bring your yoga mat, towel, and water):

*July 14      August 11      September 15      October 13*



### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

The Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) is always looking for additional members and volunteers who are interested in making a difference through park improvement, recreational activities, and events for our families and others. SPARC meets at the Town House on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. If interested, please come visit one of our meetings. For more information, please call 410-795-8959 or email [parks@sykesville.net](mailto:parks@sykesville.net).

**IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION!**

**Call for Nominations for the Sykesville Mayor and Town Council**

Nominations will be accepted at the Mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday, March 25. Three Council Member positions are up for election. All available positions will serve four-year terms.

**Qualifications to run for office:**

- You must be a resident of the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election
- You must be a registered voter in Carroll County
- At the meeting on Monday, March 25, you must have a person make a motion and another person second the motion for nomination
- All participants in the nomination process must be registered to vote in the Town of Sykesville. It is recommended that you register to vote by March 18 if you plan on running. If you are not on the list of registered voters by the night of nominations, you will not be allowed to accept the nomination until the Town can verify you have registered to vote.

**Acceptance:**

A person nominated for elective office may accept the nomination by signing a certificate of acceptance before the close of the Mayor and Town Council meeting on April 8.

Please contact Kerry Chaney at 410-795-8959 or [kchaney@sykesville.net](mailto:kchaney@sykesville.net) if you are considering running for office. She can provide more information about what is involved.

There will be a Candidate Orientation on March 27 at 6:30 pm at the Town House! All nominees should attend!

**Voter Registration closes on April 12:**

Registration with the Carroll County Board of Elections by a qualified voter who has a domicile within the Town limits and has resided within the Town limits not less than 30 days preceding the next Town elections shall be deemed registration for Town elections. Registration forms may be picked up at the Sykesville Town House, at Carroll County Board of Elections, or on the website at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/electionboard>. To see if you are currently registered to vote, please go to <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinevoterregistration/InstructionsStep1>

Election information will be posted on the website and Facebook page, and it will be updated as needed.

Carroll County Bureau of Utilities contractors continue work along School House Road and Oklahoma Ave. The installation of an 8" force main sewer line and pump station will continue through November 2019. Please be aware of periodic road closures and detours.

Thank You for your patience.

Parkside at Warfield, Parcels E&F, moving along despite inclement weather. Permits for six lots have been approved and construction has commenced.



**PAT KOMISKE | REALTOR®**  
*A longtime Sykesville resident helping buyers and sellers with all their real estate needs.*

---

*Here are just some of the comprehensive services offered when you choose to work with Pat:*

- Complimentary, Professional Staging Consultation
- High Definition Photography
- 3D Virtual Walk-through Technology
- Full Color Custom Property Brochures
- Individual Property Website
- Extensive Online, Print, & Social Media Advertising
- Weekly Digital Newsletter with over 45,000+ subscribers & growing
- Custom Property Searches
- Advocating & Negotiating For His Clients
- And More...

PatKomiske@NorthropRealty.com  
 C: 410.596.6523 | O: 410.549.2200  
[NorthropRealty.com/PatKomiske](http://NorthropRealty.com/PatKomiske)



**Northrop REALTY**  
A Long & Foster Company

# Sykesville **SPRING** Events

## **First Fridays | Every First Friday (6pm-9pm)**

Main Street

Live Music – Sips & Snacks – Open Late

## **Mimosas on Main Street | April 14 (12pm-4pm)**

Brought to you by the Main Street Merchants

## **Easter Egg Hunt | DATE TBD (10am-12pm)**

Millard Cooper Park

Kids Activities – Outdoor Fun – Easter Celebration

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Wine Festival | May 5 (12pm-5pm)**

Main Street

Unlimited Wine Sampling – Food Vendors – Local Art – Live Art Demos

## **Sykesville Farmers' Market | Every Sunday, May 19 – October 27 (9am-1pm)**

Downtown Sykesville

Live Music – Locally sourced produce, meat and more Artisanal cheeses – Baked goods – Body products Nonprofit showcase – Junior Farmers' Market

**Please see the Parks and Recreation page for the Sykesville Cinema schedule!**

**The Historic Colored Schoolhouse is available for private tours by appointment. Tours are also offered during seasonal events.**

**No pets are allowed at events on Town property.  
Please refer to Town Ordinance NO. 301, Chapter 51, Article II.**

For more information check out:

[www.townofsykesville.org](http://www.townofsykesville.org) • [www.downtownsykesville.com](http://www.downtownsykesville.com)

**Note: Events are subject to change. Please visit the websites listed above for the most up-to-date information.**



### **Little Sykes Railroad**

Free rides for kids on a 1949 12-gauge B&O model train

Every Sunday May through October 9am-1pm

### **S&P Railway**

Model train displays & 20<sup>th</sup> century train cars

Open & free to the public:  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays | 10am-2pm

Visit [facebook.com/sprailway](https://www.facebook.com/sprailway) for details & special events